The Sentence of the Court of *Holland*, *Zealand* and *Friesland*, against Mr. *Simon van Halewyn*, Burgher-Master of *Dort*; And *Robert de Pille du Plessis*, Emissary of the French King: Pronounc'd *July* 31. 1693.

Containing a full Account of the whole Intriegue for the Carrying on a Peace with *France*, and the Project of it made by the said *Halewyn*.

Printed at the Hague *by Order and Authority of the States-General.*

Done out of the DUTCH.

WHereas Mr. *Simon van Halewyn*, born at *Dort*, and Burgher-Master Senior of the same place, at present Prisoner in the Gatehouse of the Court of *Holland*, has confess'd without torture, and being without Iron-Fetters, that he went out of this Country last year, about three days after the Fight of *Steenkirk*, to travel into *Germany* and *Switzerland*.

Partly (as he says) out of curiosity to enquire into the Present State of the Frontiers of *Germany* and *France*: And

Partly to inform himself, if possible, by Monsieur *Amelot* the *French* Ambassador in *Switzerland*, of the King his Master's Intention concerning a General Peace in *Europe*.

That by both these Designs (as he farther says) he has had no other aim than to acquire more Knowledge and Experience by which he might regulate his Conduct to the best advantage of the Publick, and to a fuller discharge of his Duty, in the administration of the Affairs of his Country.

That the Prisoner being arriv'd at *Soleburne* in *Switzerland*, had address'd himself to the foremention'd *Amelot*; asking him,

First, If he was able to give him any Information of the King his Masters Intention about a General Peace.

Secondly, If his Master was inclinable to deliver up some considerable Frontiers to secure the *Spanish* Netherlands, and this Country.

That the said Ambassador had answer'd him to both in the affirmative; but telling him also, that he was not able, nor impower'd, to give him any particular; that this was work for a Treaty; but yet if the Prisoner would be pleased to stay there some time, then he (the Ambassador) would write to Court, and give him certainly a positive Answer.

That he had replied, That it was not convenient for him to stay there any longer, to prevent several Reflections.

That the said Ambassador having ask'd him who he was, and if he had any Relations and Friends in the Government; the Prisoner answered him, That his Name was *Simon van Halewyn*; that he was Burgher-Master Senior of the City of *Dort*; and that he had a Brother who had yet a greater power in the Government.

That the said *Amelot* during their Conversation having ask'd him further, What success he thought that King *James* might have had in his intended Descent, in case the French had not been beaten at Sea? The Prisoner an-

swer'd him, That it would have been a very weak Enterprize, considering the general aversion the *English* had for King *James*.

That the Prisoner to refute some Arguments which *Amelot* had made use of to show how much this State ought to desire a Peace, told him, That it was true enough, that the most considerable Families of our Country suffered very much by heavy Taxes, as having great Estates in Land, which carried the greatest burthen; but that the Merchants were very gently treated for the benefit of Trade; that the Taxes on real Estates could cause at the worst but a change of their Masters, which did not at all concern the State in general, and considered *in abstracto*; adding withal, in order to the clearer proof, that the present War did not lessen the power of the State; that altho' there were some losses in trade on one hand, yet that they were repair'd on the other, by a considerable Sale of the Manufacturies; and that it was certain that there were much more Ships built now, than before the War.

That even their Losses at Sea did not incommode them very much, since the greatest part of their Ships and Cargo were insured; and that it was in vain to imagine that there was no difference if the Los were sustained by the Proprietors or Insurers, because the latter sufficiently repairs it, by what they gain'd from the Ships that safely arriv'd in the Harbour; and that the result of all was, that those who stood in need of the Goods, were to pay a greater price for them.

These and several other Arguments the Prisoner avers that he made use of in order to exaggerate the power of the State.

The Prisoner says farther, That the said *Amelot* having ask'd him if there were some grounds to hope, that some of those that were at the Helm of the Government, were inclinable to a Peace? He answered him, That this did depend upon the particulars of the Proposals relating to it; and that except some considerable Frontier places were delivered up to the *Spanish Netherlands*, there was no true *Dutch man* who would not rather sacrifice the last *Styver* he had, than to think of a Peace.

That after some other Discourse, the Prisoner agreed with the said *Amelot*, that he the said *Amelot* was to send him some body to let him know by word of mouth an answer of the two above mentioned Questions, and that a printed Book should be sent to the Prisoner as a Token that the King did continue in his Inclination for a General Peace, and that a Messenger should follow.

That they had further agreed, that the Prisoner, as a Token that he had receiv'd the Book, should send a Letter of Trade to one *Handecourt*, living at *Paris*, in St. *Honore-Street*, at the Sign of the Arms of *England*, which should also serve for an Advertisement that he was arriv'd in the Country.

That the Prisoner told the said *Amelot*, that whereas he might perhaps make a *tour* into *England*, it would be necessary to let him know what time a Messenger would be sent him, for fear of his being disappointed; and that to assure him the Letter came from Monsieur *Amelot*, a certain Mark should be put upon the outside of it.

That according to these concerted Measures, the Prisoner receiv'd last Harvest the said printed Book, with two Letters of a different date; one of which gave him notice, that he was to receive the said Book, and the other was accompanied with it.

That the said Letters were sign'd *Finberlon*, which the Prisoner judg'd to be a fictitious Name; that he shew'd them to no body, and burn'd them a little after the receipt of them.

That the Prisoner had sent a Letter to the said *Handecourt*, of which the following Copy was seiz'd amongst his Papers.

Pay

I'Ay bien receu vos deux Lettres dattées de l' onziem & quinziem de ce mois, je tacheray a faire vendre vos actions de Novembre, selon les orders que vous m'y donnez. Je voudrois que vous me pouviez envoyer au plutoſt mon conte, car il faut que j'ajuſte icy mes Affaires, avant que je puiſſe faire mon voyage d' Angleterre, qui preſſe d'autant plus que les bleds montent icy a un prix exceſſif, & ſi on y veut faire le negoce, que nous avons projetté, it faut qu'on le faſſe au plutoſt, car pour faire un achapt conſiderable en de taile it faut du temps pour prendre ſes meſures, & ſi on ne le fait puis en detail, il n'y arien a gagner.

The ſame in Engliſh

'I Have receiv'd your Two Letters, dated the 11th and 15th of this Month. 'I'll endeavour to ſell your Actions of *November* according to your Or-'ders; and I wiſh you would ſend me ſpeedily my Accounts, for I would fain 'adjuſt my Affairs here before I go into *England*, which cannot be put off 'very long conſidering the exceſſive Rate that Corn is riſen to, and ſold at 'here; and if we will Trade in it according to our Project, we muſt do it 'ſpeedily, becauſe there is much time required to buy a conſiderable Quan-'tity by Parcels, and if it be not done by Parcels, nothing is to be won.

The *Priſoner* ſays, That he had diſguis'd his hand in this Letter, and put a falſe Name to it, becauſe he was willing to avoid the Offence, which in caſe of dicovery it would have given to thoſe that did not like the buſineſs.

He ladds, That by theſe words in the Letter; *Je voudrois que vous me pouviez envoyer au plutoſt mon conte.* (I wiſh you would ſend me ſpeedily my Accounts.) He underſtood the Perſon that was to be ſent to him; and that by the following words, he did not underſtand the buſineſs of a Peace, the gaining of Friends, and the working out of that *Peace*.

That afterwards, according to his agreement with Monſieur *d' Amelot*, a certain Frenchman, nam'd *Roberti de Pillé du Pleſſis*, being arriv'd at *Dort*, had met him there in an Inn, call'd the *Logement van de heeren*. That the ſaid French-man askt the *Priſoner*, if he was the Man that had been with Monſieur *d' Amelot* in *Switzerland*, and whether he had receiv'd the forementioned Book, and he having aſſur'd him of both, the ſaid *Roberti* diſdiſcover'd himſelf to him, and acquainted him with the reaſons of his coming.

That the *Priſoners* having askt the ſaid *Roberti* what Conditions he had to propoſe for a Peace: The ſaid *Roberti* anſwer'd him, That he had no orders to make any overture of it, and that at that time he was far from giving any Satisfaction about the Queſtions the *Priſoner* had propoſed to *Amelot*: The ſaid *Roberti* on the other hand ask'd him, whether the *Priſoner* had any thing to propoſe to him relating to a peace with this State and its Allies? To which the *Priſoner* reply'd, he had not; that it was contrary to the Agreement made with Monſieur *Amelot*, who had promis'd to inform him what Sentiments the Court of *France* had about a General *Peace*; and that thereupon having preſt the ſaid *Roberti* to endeavour to ſee himſelf put in a condition of giving the Priſoner ſome Satisfaction about the ſaid point, the ſaid *Roberti* promiſed him, that he would not fail to do it.

That after ſome time the Priſoner having askt the ſaid *Roberti* whether he had receiv'd an Anſwer of a Letter which he had promiſed to write into *France*, in order to know the Propoſals the Court of *France* was willing to make for a *Peace*; the ſaid *Roberti* anſwered him (as he ſays) that he had both writ, and received an Anſwer about it, which was, That the Court did not think fit to explain her ſelf about the particulars before ſhe knew what ſucceſs Monſieur *d Avaux* would meet with at the Court of the King of *Sweden*, whom he was to entreat to offer his mediation for a *Peace* between the

Confederates and *France*. And that since that time the Prisoner did remain in these Terms with the said *Roberti*.

That the Prisoner went afterwards with the said *Roberti* to a Countrey-house of his at *Abbenbroeck*, where they remain'd two or three days together.

That during their stay there, the said *Roberti* having told the Prisoner, by way of discourse, that he could not comprehend the form of the Government of this State; the prisoner exhlain'd it to him, as also that of the City of *Dort* in particular, which the prisoner said, was yet more intricate.

That in recompence of it, the said *Roberti* inform'd the Prisoner of the present State of Affairs in *France*.

The Prisoner says, that he had no other Design in carrying the said *Roberti* to his Country-house, but to discourse with him about the Architecture of a House he was building there.

He protests, that he had never askt any Money of the said *Roberti*, but that riding from *Abbenbroeck*, and being near the Sluce, the said *Roberti* had offered him a considerable Sum for the better carrying on of his Building.

That the Prisoner having refus'd the acceptance of it, by telling him: *Que ses petites affaires n'avoient pas besoin de ce secours*, i. e. That his small Affairs did not stand in need of such a Supply, the said *Roberti* replied: *Que si ce n'estoit pas pour le batiment, que ce fut donc pour la petite oye*, i. e. That if it was not for his Building, it should be for his little pleasures.

He further adds, That at the same time the said *Roberti* offered him this Money, the Prisoner told him, that he lookt upon it as a great piece of Villany to accept of any Bribe. That he had always wondered, that in the former Wars some had been found here, who had been so far warp'd and corrupted by it, as to abandon the general Interest of *Europe*; and although he had no aversion to the receiving of an honest Recompence from those from whom he might lawfully receive it, yet that he hated all Bribes.

That since that time, the Prisoner has had several other enterviews with the said *Roberti*, wherein he always told him, that whereas the Court of *France* might easily have imagined, that he had not desired any one should be sent him to treat about indifferent Matters, but about the agreement of some favourable Conditions for a Peace, he was willing to let him know, That as soon as he should be assured of the French King's Inclination for a Peace, he was inclinable to make an overture of it to the Magistracy of the City of *Dort*, who should afterwards propose it to the Assembly of the States of *Holland*, that so in due time it might be taken into their mature Consideration.

And although the Prisoner confesses that he had perused the Articles of the Treaty concluded between this State and the Confederates, by which an Agreement was made, on what grounds a Peace was to be concluded; that no Treaty about it ought to be set on foot without a general Concurrence, and that every one of them should acquaint the other with what might happen to them in particular, that should tend towards it: Yet he alledges in his Defence.

That a Declaration of War does only prohibit an unlawful Correspondency to the prejudice of the State.

That it is agreed on all hands, That to endeavour to procure a Peace, is not at all prejudicial to the State; that it is so far from that, that those who employ themselves about some honest means of obtaining it, should be lookt upon as Criminals, that they rather deserve to have a Statue erected them, and that he was willing to do it, tho it was at the peril of his Life.

Afterwards

Afterwards having desired leave to speak with freedom, the Prisoner said That being before the High Court of Justice of his Country, he had a great mind to convince them, that it was none of his fault, that Lives and Estates were sacrific'd to men; and that he would rather dye, than see it longer continued, and to play on *dobbe dobbe dob*, and *fan fare* for the K. of *England*.

Whereupon being ordered to retire, the words were recorded by the Clerk; and the Prisoner being call'd in again, and the words read to him, he was askt if they did not exactly correspond with what he had said; to which he answered, That he was not able to repeat the very same words, which he had spoke in the heat of his Defence; but that his meaning was, That he thought it was so far from a man's being lookt upon as a Criminal to the State, for endeavouring by honest means to promote a Peace, that he rather deserved to be commended for it; and that he should sooner wish to dye this very moment, than see things reduced to such Extremities,

That he had never had so ridiculous a presumption of his own capacity, as to think himself able, nor that indeed he had been willing to procure a Peace, a work of so great consequence, against the general Opinion and the Sentiments of others; but that he thought that in case some solid and reasonable proposals of peace should be offered, it being a thing so necessary and so salutary for this State, that every true Patriot would have readily, without any other reason, have embrac'd them; the Prisoner withal assuring his Judges, that what steps soever he had made in this Affair, they were occasion'd by nothing else but a sincere Intension of his to promote the true Interest of this State.

That, in fine, the Prisoner at a time when some suspected persons, who were seiz'd at the *Hague*, at the Sign of the King of *Spain*, had wrote a Letter to the said *Roberti* at *Amsterdam* without either Name or Date, and having his Hand disguis'd therein, with the following Contents: *On vient de me dire que l' hoste au Roy d' Espagne & quelques Espions sont arrestez c' est à vous à prendre vos mesures.* I am just now inform'd that the Landlord and several Spies, lodging at the Sign of the King of *Spain*, have been seiz'd. It belongs to you to take your Measures accordingly.

That by this he would have given the said *Roberti* to understand, that possibly some search might be made after him too, and that he had endeavour'd to prevent the finding out of the Correspondency which he entertained with the said *Roberti*.

The Prisoner confessing that he had undertaken all this without giving notice of it to any body, and without being empowered by any of the Princes now in Confederacy with this State, either to make, or to receive any overture for a general Peace.

All which being opposite to the Duty of a good Subject, much more to that of a Magistrate, and most of all directly contrary to the concluded Treaties, as also to the several Proclamations of the State, which expressly had forbidden all Subjects whatsoever of this Country, to entertain any correspondency or commerce directly or indirectly, either by Letters or other means, tending to the prejudice of this Country, with *France* or its Subjects, upon pain of being proceeded against as declared Enemies of the State, and they being besides things of an ill aspect, and of a dangerous consequence, deserving to be highly punish'd for the Example of others:

For these Reasons,

The said Court, after a mature deliberation, and a full examination of all things relating to this Affair, administring Justice, in the Name, and by the Authority of the *Supream Magistracy* and Lording of *Holland*, *Zealand*, and

Friezland

Friezland, has condemn'd the said prisoner, and does condemn him by these presents, to be carried to a secure place, to remain a prisoner there during life, declaring also all his Goods and Estate to be confiscated for the use of the Supream Magistracy, and condemning him besides to the payment of all Expences of Justice, according to the Estimate of the said Court. *Actum* in the *Hague* by our Lords and Masters, *Matthews Gool*, *Benjamin Fagel*, Seigneur *Vander Weer*, *John Munter*, *Francis Keetlaer*, *Paul Andrew vandr Meulen*, *Charles Filips van Dorp*, *Iman Cau*, *Anthony Slicher*, and *Frederick Roosenboom*, Senators of *Holland*, and pronounc'd *July* the 31*st*, 1693.

Sign'd, *Ant. van Kinschot.*

Robert de Pillè du Plessis's Sentence, Pronounc'd by the Court of *Holland*, *Zealand* and *Friezland*, *July* the 31*st*, 1693.

WHereas *Robert de Pillé du Plessis*'s, seven and fifty Years Old, born at *Clamsey* in *Burgundy*, at present Prisoner at the Gate-house of the Court of *Holland*, has confest, without Torture, and being without Iron-Fetters. That he has been sent hither by the *French* King last Year, to Treat about a Peace.

That he has receiv'd some Instructions about it by the *French* King, but that having read them over and over again, and consequently knowing the Contents of it by heart, he had burnt the Written Copy at *Mons*, partly because he did not think it safe passing through an Enemies Country, to keep it about him, partly to execute the Orders which he at parting receiv'd from that Court.

That at *Mons* he had receiv'd a Pasport from the Elector of *Bavaria*, which the Governour of that place had obtained for him under the Name of *Robert du Plessis*, Picture Drawer.

That he had been provided with a Pass-port from Monsieur *de Neufville* Envoy of the King of *Poland* at the Court of *France*, containing amongst other things, that he was a dealer in Pictures, going into *Poland* in order to carry to that King some Pictures, which he had bought for him by his Orders.

That with these Pasports he Arrived in the *Spanish Netherlands*, from whence he came to the *Hague* in *January* last, without any Pasport from this State.

That according to his Orders receiv'd from the Court of *France*, he had Address'd himself to the Burgher-Master Senior, *Simon van Halewyn*, asking him, if he was not the person that had been with Monsieur *Amelot* in *Switzerland*; and having afterwards told the said Burgher-Master who he was, and the reason of his coming, he had ask'd the said Burgher-Master, if he had not receiv'd a little Book as a token that some body should be sent to him.

That the said Burgher-Master having answer'd him in the Affirmative, the Prisoner had further ask'd him whether he had any Propositals to make relating to a Peace.

That the said *Halewyn* had answered him (as the Prisoner pretends) that it was not time yet, that the face of Affairs was chang'd, and that the Prisoner must allow him some time to take some new Measures.

That he had thereupon ask'd the said *Halewyn* (as he says) if there was then no hopes left, and if it was fit for him to depart; *Halewyn* had answer'd him, No, but that he should wait some time to see if some favourable opportunity, and some good disposition in the State should offer it self.

That

That he had talk'd at several times and places with the said *Simon van Halewyn*, and concerted with him several Measures about this Affair.

That after their first enterview, they had met at several times at the *Voorhout*, a place before the Court at the *Hague*; and that about a Month ago being come to the same place about Seven a Clock at Night, according to the said *Halewyn*'s Assignation, the said *Halewyn* had told him, That he had a written project about him, but that he had refus'd to deliver it to him, nor to trust any body with it, because he had writ it with his own hand.

That the said *Halewyn* had carried the Prisoner to the *Ouden doole*, where he had dictated to him the said project.

That the said *Halewyn* had brought with him to that purpose some paper, but finding no Ink there, the Prisoner had found himself oblig'd to write it into his Tables.

That the said *Halewyn* after having dictated to him the said project, had burnt the Original of it.

That afterwards the Prisoner having told the said *Halewyn*, that tho' they were in a Tavern that yet they had drunk no Wine, and that people might very well suspect they were come thither for some other purpose than to drink, the said *Halewyn* had pour'd out some Wine upon the Floor, and into the Chimney.

That the Prisoner has sent the said project in a Letter into *France* the 19th of *February* last, the Contents of which are,

That to prepare things for a Peace, it would be necessary to engage the King of *Sweden* to offer his Mediation about it to his Majesty of *Great-Britain*, and this State.

That there should by no means be made any Proposals of it, before they were assured that these Provinces were in a Humour to accept it.

That the means to bring them to it, were to endeavour secretly and cunningly to give a full prospect to those that had the greatest Intereſt and Authority with the Deputies of this State, of the sad Consequences that would attend a further Continuation of this War, to all the States in General, and to each in particular, managing every body according to his Humour and Inclination.

That altho' they were sensible enough of the Inconveniencies of the War, that yet this was not sufficient, but that it was necessary to gain some Deputies that would undertake to animate the rest by some bold Example.

That no body was more proper for it than the two Brothers, *Halewyn*, as being Persons of great Credit, and of a competent knowledge of Affairs.

That over and above, the City of *Dort*, who had the first Vote of all other places, might by her Advice, and manner of proceeding, teach others that were more timerous to desy ise the hatred of those that were not pleas'd with it.

That after the Two Brothers had been gain'd, and the King of *Sweden* disposed to the offering of his Mediation, that then the Memorial which was to be presented about it to the States-General, should be concerted with the said two persons, who best knew how to humour it.

That after this Memorial was presented to the States-General, and receiv'd by the said Provinces, and consequently brought into *Holland*, that then the Respective Deputies should take it into their Consideration, except those of the City of *Dort*, who should instantly declare that they had already embrac'd it, that the other Deputies might acquaint their Principals with it.

That to this purpose, it was necessary to gain the Eldest of the said Brothers by some Intereſt of Family, and to render them Masters in the said

City

City of *Dort*, which being govern'd by a Commonalty might be eaſily appeas'd with words alone.

Theſe the Priſoner ſays, were the Contents of the project, altho' the ſaid *Simon van Halewyn* expreſly denies to know the leaſt thing of it: and that the Priſoner proteſts, That *Simon van Halewyn* has always told him, that his Brother had not the leaſt knowledge of it, nor that the Priſoner has ever talkt with the Eldeſt *Halewyn*, or any other Perſon.

That the Priſoner has further declared to the Court, That he has ſent ſeveral other Letters to the Court of *France*, relating to this Affair, and eſpecially one dated *Feb.* 13. 1693. by which he had inform'd that Court that *Simon van Halewyn* had told him, That the two joynt Fleets were to be Reinforced by a Squadron of Thirty Men of War.

That altho' the Priſoner had denied to have offered any Sum of Money to the ſaid *Halewyn*, yet that he has confeſt, That taking a walk him at *Abbenbroeck*, and talking about his Building, he had ſaid to the ſaid *Halewyn*, upon his own account only; and by way of Compliment, That the King his Maſter was rich enough to offer him a little preſent to the promoting of his Building, but that it ſeem'd the ſaid *Halewyn* had made no Reflections on it.

That nevertheleſs, the Priſoner had writ into *France* for Money, and thereupon he had been impower'd by the *French* King in a Letter dated the 4th of *March* laſt (which was intercepted during his Impriſonment) to promiſe to *Simon Van Halewyn*, the Sum of Twenty Thouſand Crowns, in caſe he could by his Credit, and that of his Friends, perſuade the City of *Dort*, to give ſuch an Example to the other Cities in *Holland*, that thereupon a Peace might enſue.

All which being, ſuch proceedings, as in no Country where there is any Juſtice, ought to be ſuffered, as tending to the Deſtruction of the General Quiet and Tranquility of the State, and the cauſing ſome Difference and Animoſity (if poſſible) between the Confederates and this State; and conſequently deſerving Puniſhment for an Example to others:

For theſe Reaſons,

The ſaid Court, after a mature Deliberation, and ſerious Examination of all Matters relating to this Affair, adminiſtring Juſtice in the Name, and by the Authority of the *Supreme Magiſtracy* and Lordſhip of *Holland*, *Zeeland*, and *Friezland*, has condemn'd the ſaid priſoner, and does condemn him by theſe Preſents, To be carried to a ſecure place, where he is to remain priſoner during this War, and to be kept on his own Expences; and does Baniſh him out of *Holland*, *Zealand*, *Friezland*, and *Utrecht*, without Liberty of returning therto under pain of a ſeverer puniſhment, declares all his Goods Confiſcated to the profit of the Supream Magiſtracy, and Condemns him beſides to all the Expences of Juſtice, according to the Eſtimate of the ſaid Court. *Actum* at the *Hague* by our Lords and Maſters, *Matthew Gool*, *Benjamin Fagel*, Seignior *Van Fer-Weeer*, *John Munter*, *Francis Keetlaer*, *Paul Andrew vander Meulen*, *Charles Philips van Dorp*, *Iman Cau*, *Anthony Slicher*, and *Frederick Rooſenboom*, Senators of *Holland*, and pronounc'd *July the* 31*ſt*, 1693. Sign'd *Ant. van Kinſchot.*

FINIS.

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